

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ALGIER 00475 020850Z

73

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01

H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07

RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00

PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /201 W

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R 020730Z MAR 74

FM USINT ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0199

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USUN NEW YORK 0376

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0475

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AG, US, EGEN, UNGA

SUBJ: ALGERIAN POSITION RE SPECIAL SESSION UNGA

REF: USUN 0694 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: WHEN PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE PRESENTS ALGERIAN POSITION AT SPECIAL SESSION UNGA HE CAN BE EXPECTED TO MAKE FORCEFUL DENUNCIATION OF WORLD ECONOMIC SYSTEM ON BEHALF OF NON-ALIGNED AND TRY TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM HIGH OIL PRICES. THERE IS ALSO POSSIBILITY HE WILL SEEK CONFRONTATION WITH WASHINGTON ENERGY GROUP. ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT EXPECT TO CHANGE BASIC ALGERIAN POSITION, WE BELIEVE OUR CONTINUED ASSURANCES THAT USG AND WASHINGTON GROUP DO NOT SEEK CONFRONTATION MAY HELP ATTENUATE ALGERIAN RHETORIC AND MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THEM MAKE WASHINGTON GROUP MAJOR TARGET FOR THEIR GRIEVANCES.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ALGIER 00475 020850Z

1. POINTS MADE BY AMBASSADOR SCALI AT LUNCHEON MEETING WITH ALGERIAN UN AMBASSADOR RAHAL (REFTEL) ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE WE HAVE MADE WITH OUR ALGERIAN CONTACTS. AT SAME TIME WE HAVE GAINED IMPRESSION THAT ALGERIANS MAY, WHATEVER THEY SAY TO CONTRARY, SEEK AT SPECIAL GA SESSION A CONFRONTATION WITH INDUSTRIAL NATIONS AND PARTICULARLY WITH PARTICIPANTS IN WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE.

2. EXAMPLE OF HIGHEST LEVEL ALGERIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD WASHINGTON CONFERENCE WAS PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE'S SPEECH IN PEKING FEBRUARY 26 WHERE HE SAID: "ATTEMPT MADE IN WASINGTON TO ESTABLISH A CARTEL TO CONTROL SOURCES OF ENERGY AND, BEFORE LONG, RAW MATERIALS OF COUNTRIES OF THIRD WORLD CANNOT BUT LEAD TO EXACERBATING CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES."

3. WE HAVE TRIED TO GET MESSAGE THROUGH HERE THAT WASHINGTON CONFERENCE DID NOT CREATE MONSTER DEPICTED BY ALGERIANS. AT THIS POINT IT IS HARD TO KNOW TO WHAT EXTENT ALGERIAN LEADERSHIP TAKES SERIOUSLY ITS OWN RETORIC, BUT WHATEVER THEY SAY THEIR ESSENTIAL CONCERN IS TWO-FOLD: (A) THAT MAJOR CONSUMERS WILL SOMEHOW IMPOSE LOWER PRICES ON PRODUCERS, AND (B) THAT MAJOR CONSUMERS WILL TURN POOR COUNTRIES OF THIRD WORLD AGAINST ARAB PRODUCERS.

4. ALGERIAN PREPARATIONS FOR SPECIAL UNGA SESSION ARE BEING MADE BY A COMMITTEE NOW MEETING DAILY IN A VILLA IN ALGIERS. AMONG PARTICIPANTS ARE ABERKANE AND OULD ROUIS OF FOREIGN MINISTRY AND OCCASIONALLY MINISTER OF INDUSTRY ABDESSELAM. WHEN BRITISH AMBASSADOR MADE FAREWELL CALL ON ABDESSELAM SEVERAL DAYS AGO HE FOUND ALGERIAN MINISTER IN COMBATIVE MOOD OVER WASHINGTON CONFERENCE, AND GOT IMPRESSION ALGERIANS WERE LOOKING FOR A CONFRONTATION WITH WASHINGTON GROUP POSSIBLY AS A TACTIC TO KEEP NON-ALIGNED STATES UNITED. OTHERS WHO HAVE RECENTLY SEEN ABDESSELAM HAVE FOUND HIM LESS MILITANT. FURTHERMORE WE UNDERSTAND HE WAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH HIS RECENT VISIT TO U.S. AND LOOKS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ALGIER 00475 020850Z

TOWARD INCREASED COLLABORATION WITH U.S. INDUSTRY, FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY. WE HAVE EXPRESSED TO SEVERAL ALGERIAN CONTACTS, INCLUDING CHERIF GUELLAL WHO IS NOW IN ALGIERS AND IN TOUCH WITH ABDESSELAM, OUR CONCERN THAT ALGERIA'S RHETORIC AT SPECIAL UNGA SESSION MIGHT PREJUDICE IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

5. PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE WILL BE DELIVERING MAJOR SPEECH AT UNGA WHERE HE WILL FOR FIRST TIME BE VISITING A WESTERN COUNTRY. DURING PLANNING FOR HIS VISIT TO UNGA BEFORE OCTOBER WAR ALGERIANS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN BILATERAL CONTACTS AFTER COMPLETION OF BOUMEDIENE'S DUTIES AS SPOKESMAN FOR NON-ALIGNED WORLD. WE DO NOT HAVE CURRENT READING ON HIS INTENTIONS BUT EXPECT TO HEAR SOMETHING AFTER HIS RETURN FROM FAR EAST NEXT WEEK.

6. I BELIEVE AT SOME POINT BEFORE UNGA SESSION APRIL 9 IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR US TO GET MESSAGE TO BOUMEDIENE, THROUGH DIRECT OR INDIRECT CHANNELS, SETTING FORTH IN GENERAL TERMS OUR DESIRE TO AVOID CONFRONTATION AND WORK TOWARD POSITIVE OUTCOME IN UNGA. WHILE THIS WOULD NOT CHANGE WELL-KNOWN ALGERIAN VIEWS ON NEED TO MODIFY WORLD ECONOMIC STRUCTURE IT MIGHT TAKE SOME OF STEAM OUT OF CONFRONTATION AND IMPROVE PROSPECTS THAT BOUMEDIENE'S VISIT WILL HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON U.S. ALGERIAN RELATIONS.
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